

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this application. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and to clearly note the patentable distinctions of all claims over the cited art.

Present Status of Application

The Office Action tentatively rejected all claims 1-16 under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Chen (US 2004/0088440). However, Applicant traverses the rejection and request reconsideration of all rejected claims.

Rejections of claims 1-16 based on 35 USC 102 (e)

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (e) as being anticipated by Chen (US 2004/0088440). In this regard, the Office Action alleged that Chen teaches a disc player, comprising of an optical drive for reading data from a disc, a card reader for reading image files from a card and a micro-controller connected to said optical drive and said card reader for receiving data or image files from said optical drive or said card reader, wherein when said micro-controller is operated in a soundless operation mode, said optical drive is activated to output an audio data and said micro-controller may transfer the audio data to audio signals for playing in Fig. 1, Fig. 2, [0019] and [0022] of the cited art. The Office Action alleged that this description in Chen is also what Applicant defines in claim 1 of the present application.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. In this regard, claim 1 recites:

1. A disc player, comprising:
an optical drive for reading data from a disc;
a card reader for reading image files from a card; and
a micro-controller connected to said optical drive and said card reader for receiving data or image files from said optical drive or said card reader;
wherein when said micro-controller is operated in a soundless operation mode, said optical drive is activated to output an audio data and said micro-controller may transfer the audio data to audio signals for playing.

(*Emphasis added*). Claim 1 patently defines over the cited art for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose the featured emphasized above.

In this regard, claim 1 defines that the micro-controller is operated in a soundless operation mode, during which the micro-controller receives data or image files from the optical drive or card reader at the same time that it transfers audio signals from the optical drive. For example, there may be both a card with image files in the card reader and an optical disc with music data in the optical drive. When the disc player is in a soundless operation mode, the micro-controller outputs only video signals from the card with image files to the TV. At the same time, the micro-controller outputs audio signals from the optical disc with music data to the speakers in the soundless operation mode.

That is to say, the claimed embodiments define a disc player including at least two storage devices. When the micro-controller accesses a first storage device (card reader) of the disc player and the data stored in the first storage device is only video data, the micro-controller outputs the video data to the TV screen and the disc player is operated in a soundless operation mode. At the same time, the micro-controller tries to access a second storage device. If data stored in the second storage device (optical drive) is only an audio data, then the micro-controller outputs the audio data to the

speakers. In this way, user can watch or edit image files (from the first storage device) and listen to the music (from the second storage device) at the same time.

In contrast, Fig. 2 of the cited art is a flowchart for reading a DVD and paragraph [0022] of the cited art merely describes a process of reading a DVD. The read/write drive starts to read data in a DVD. Subsequently, the read/write drive transfers read media data to the media data codec for decompression. Next, the decompressed data are transferred to the analog interface transducer, which converts the received digital data-into analog media signals receivable by a television. The television then plays the analog media signals. However, the analog media signals maybe include video signals and audio signals. Also, the cited reference does not teach a read/write drive that can activate two devices, one for outputting a video signal and one for outputting an audio signal, at the same time.

In other words, the cited art does not disclose a soundless operation as claimed by claim 1, nor does it teach that the optical drive is activated to output an audio data and said micro-controller may transfer the audio data to audio signals for playing when said micro-controller is operated in a soundless operation mode. Instead, the cited art merely discloses an apparatus and describes its function, nothing more.

Therefore, the cited art, Chen, fails to disclose a soundless operation claimed in claim 1, and for at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Similarly, the rejections of independent claims 6 and 12 should be withdrawn for the same reasons. In this regard, independent claims 6 and 12 recite:

6. A disc player, comprising:
at least one optical drive for reading data from a disc;
a card reader for reading data from a card; and

***a micro-controller connected to said at least one optical drive and said card reader for receiving data from said at least one optical drive or said card reader;
wherein when said micro-controller is operated in a soundless operation mode, if one of said at least one optical drive and said card reader may provide an audio data to said micro-controller, said micro-controller transfer said audio data to audio signals for playing.***

12. A method of controlling a ***disc player used in a soundless operation mode***, comprising the steps of:
activating a plurality of hardware for providing at least one audio data; and
if one of said hardware being capable of providing said at least one audio data, transferring said audio data to audio signals for playing.

(*Emphasis added*). Independent claims 6 and 12 patently define over the cited art for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose at least the features emphasized above.

Moreover, since claim 2-5, 7-11, and 13-16 depend from claim 1, 6 and 12, they patently define over the cited art, Chen, at least the same reason.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claim 1-16 as originally presented are in condition for allowance and hereby requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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